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20 December 1957

NSC Review Completed

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution Below

SUBJECT: Crash Request for Ideas

1. The Operations Coordinating Board has been considering for some time a number of "scientific and technological actions" which might be taken by the United States in an attempt to demonstrate to the rest of the world the strength and resources of this country.

2. Among the projects considered in some detail so far are the desalination of water, the use of solar energy, and a drilling project to penetrate the earth's crust. A number of other proposals are being staffed out by Defense, AEC and others.

3. As a corollary of these studies and discussions the Board has now expanded its considerations to include any idea which might improve the posture of the United States vis-a-vis the USSR and the Soviet bloc. It has been pointed out that this country has not produced recently any really dynamic ideas for countering the increasing prestige of the Soviets. Consequently the Board has asked each member to produce a list of possible actions that might contribute to this end.

4. The DCI has asked that all members of this agency devote their best thinking to the problem, in an effort to bring to the fore some ideas which he can present.

5. This affords anyone a rare opportunity to bring a really good idea immediately to the attention of the highest body of this Government charged with coordinating foreign operations. Ideas thought by the members of the OCB to have merit would then be staffed out further from the point of view of feasibility, impact on other programs, etc.

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6. It is requested that you bring this subject to the attention of your personnel and urge them strongly to come up with any ideas in this field. I propose, in submitting these to the DCI, not to identify the source of the idea until he has expressed approval of it. This procedure should eliminate any need for timidity or embarrassment in presenting ideas.

7. Ideas should be short and concise, not more than two or three sentences. They may range over any subject which the originator believes would fit the objective underlined in paragraph 3.

8. We have a very short deadline on this, as the list must be available for the DCI to present to the Board on 2 January. Accordingly ideas must be received in my office, 2038 L Bldg., by 1000, Monday, 30 December.

9. Personnel should also be encouraged to submit to me any ideas they may have after that date, but a crash effort is required now.

Thomas A. Parrott
THOMAS A. PARROTT
Operations Coordinating Board
Assistant

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